(c) the expected extra amount to be added in the present toll tax on the basis of the proposal and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2008 have since been approved and notified on 05th December, 2008.

(b) The main features of National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2008 are as below:-

(i) Uniform rate of fee for public funded and private investment projects has been prescribed.

(ii) Categorisation of vehicles for fixing the base rate of fee.

(iii) Concession/discount to local users, and for multiple journeys.

(iv) Annual revision of rate of fee to reflect increase in the Wholesale Price Index (WPI).

(v) Levy of user fee for two-lane highways @60% of the user charges prescribed for four-lane highways.

(vi) Rate of fee prescribed for use of permanent bridge, bypass or tunnel.

(vii) Provision for collection, remittance and appropriation of fee.

(viii) Rate of fee for overloading has been prescribed.

(ix) Location of Toll Plaza.

(c) The rate of fee calculated in terms of these Rules will vary for individual projects keeping in view project parameters.

Dehri-Jadunathpur NH-2C

†1195. SHRI GANDHI AZAD: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) since when Dehri-Jadunathpur NH-2C Rohtas (Sasaram) district, Bihar road scheme, which is related with the road going to Calcutta, was introduced;

(b) by when the scheme was to be completed and by when it is likely to be completed;

(c) the amount of expenditure incurred on the scheme so far and the amount likely to be spent on the same;

(d) whether the scheme is delayed;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) the steps taken by Government for the redressal of these reasons; and

(g) the details thereof and the authority responsible for the same?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) National Highway No.2C which originates from Dehri and passes through Akbarpur-Jadunathpur and terminates at Uttar Pradesh/Bihar border is a newly declared National Highway notified on 1.6.2006.

(b) Ministry has sanctioned three proposals for widening and strengthening in Km. 0 to 18, Km. 19 to 32 and Km. 33 to 40 for an amount of Rs. 1313.35 lacs, Rs. 864.7 lacs and Rs. 635.39 lacs respectively. The tenders for these works have been decided and works awarded.

(c) No expenditure has been incurred so far on these works. The likely cost of completion is Rs. 2813.44 lacs.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) to (g) Development and maintenance of National Highways is a continuous process. Works are taken up depending upon the availability of resources and *inter-se* priority of works.

Reduction in freight

†1196. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ship freight on international waterways is continuously declining from past four months;

(b) if so, the percentage of decrease in this freight from July 2008 to November, 2008;

(c) the name of origin and destination countries which have witnessed maximum and minimum reduction in freight; and

(d) the reasons for reduction in freight and the percentage reduction in freight attributed to every reason separately?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ship freight on international waterways has been continuously declinging from past four months. This is especially so for the dry bulk sector where the drop in freight/charter rates which was apparent from August, 2008 took a steep fall in September, October and November, 2008.

As far as liner sector is concerned, the decrease is ranging between 50-70% from Indian sub-continent to Far East sector. Middle East sector and Europe sector. Similarly, the freight is also declining on the return legs ranging from 35-50%.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.